

# Justices Limit Existing EPA Global Warming Rules

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court on Monday placed limits on the sole Obama administration program already in place to deal with power plant and factory emissions of gases blamed for global warming.

The justices said that the Environmental Protection Agency lacks authority in some cases to force companies to evaluate ways to reduce carbon dioxide emissions. This rule applies when a company needs a permit to expand facilities or build new ones that would increase overall pollution. Carbon dioxide is the chief

gas linked to global warming.

The decision does not affect EPA proposals for first-time national standards for new and existing power plants. The most recent proposal aims at a 30 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, but won't take effect for at least another two years.

The outcome also preserves EPA's authority over facilities that already emit pollutants that the agency regulates other than greenhouse gases.

Justice Antonin Scalia, writing for the court, said "EPA is getting almost everything it wanted in this case."

Scalia said the agency wanted to regulate 86 percent of all greenhouse gases emitted from plants nationwide. The agency will be able to regulate 83 percent of the emissions under the ruling, Scalia said.

EPA said that, as of late March, 166 permits have been issued by state and federal regulators since 2011.

Permits have been issued to power plants, but also to plants that produce chemicals, cement, iron and steel, fertilizer, ceramics and ethanol. Oil refineries and municipal landfills also have obtained greenhouse gas permits since 2011, EPA said.

## IRS Head: No Obstruction Of Congress In Probe

WASHINGTON (AP) — The head of the IRS brushed aside accusations Monday that the agency has obstructed investigations into the targeting of tea party and other political groups, even as Republican lawmakers questioned his credibility.

Commissioner John Koskinen was appearing at a rare evening hearing on Capitol Hill to answer questions about lost emails by a key figure in the probe.

"I know tonight will be difficult, and it deserves to be difficult for both sides," said Rep. Darrell Issa, R-Calif., chairman of the House Oversight Committee. "We have a problem with you, and you have a problem with maintaining your credibility."

Issa accused Koskinen of misleading the Oversight Committee in the spring, when he promised to turn over Lois Lerner's emails. Since then, the IRS has disclosed that Lerner's computer crashed in 2011, losing an unknown number of those emails.

Koskinen said he first learned there was a problem with Lerner's computer in February, but didn't learn that emails were lost until April. The IRS notified Congress June 13.

## City

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a bid letting in April 2015 and project completion by Aug. 14, 2015.

Finally, Water Treatment Plant No. 3 is scheduled for a bid letting in December 2015. The aim would be to have it up and running by Feb. 1, 2017.

The meeting Monday began with Goodmanson describing progress on the collector well design. It is projected that the well will produce more than 12 million gallons of water per day (MGD) during the winter and more than 18 MGD during the summer. Combined with the wells in Nebraska, the city will be able to produce more than 16 MGD during the winter and more than 22 MGD during the summer.

When he and HDR, Inc., representatives were designing the small building that will house the collector well, Goodmanson said the National Park Service was consulted because of the facility's proximity to the Missouri National Recreational River.

"We came up with a concept that fit what the National Park Services was looking for in the theme of the river," Goodmanson stated. "We wanted something that didn't catch your eye - but when it does catch your eye, it looks nice. We had discussed making it look like a paddle wheel boat or light-house, but the National Park Service didn't want something that was drawing attention off the river."

Three artistic renderings of the facility were presented. The shape of the building is the same in all proposals, but the exterior façade



This artistic rendering of the housing for a collector well that will be built in Paddle Wheel Point proved to be the most popular among three options. The well is part of millions of dollars in water system upgrades the City of Yankton will undertake during the next several years.

varied slightly. The most popular among staff and the commission was option three, which has stone work about a third of the way up from the ground and then has a flat exterior with shades of beige.

Goodmanson said design work would proceed with option three in mind.

No action was taken on the presentation.

In a related matter, the commission did take action to approve an amendment to the contract with HDR, Inc., to design Water Treat-

ment Plant No. 3 with the aim of making the facility more compatible with its recreational surroundings.

During a previous meeting, City Manager Amy Nelson said commissioners and the public had expressed a desire to make the plant aesthetically pleasing.

"Since that time, I've sat down with a number of residents and Kyle to talk about some of the things that could be considered assets to a new structure, whether it be exterior cladding, a look-out

area or a concessions/restroom area," she stated. "I've asked Kyle to visit with HDR regarding putting together a contract to consider design."

The cost of the amendment is not to exceed \$53,475 and will result in three options for the design of the water plant and the surrounding landscape. It will also be discussed during the process whether work will extend to the adjoining Water Treatment Plant No. 2.

"I think there are some options,"

Nelson said, noting the amount of work done to blend the two facilities could be minor or more extensive, depending on the wishes of the commission.

A committee will be formed of commissioners, select stakeholders and the public to meet with HDR officials during the course of three meetings. Commissioners Pauline Akland, David Knoff and Craig Sommer volunteered to be on the committee. Ultimately, a presentation will be made to the commission.

In other business, the commission:

- Held a discussion about writing opinion pieces for the Press & Dakotan on a regular basis. Sommer thought commission members should take turns writing about issues that are important to them, while others thought it might be useful for Nelson to expand upon subjects faced by municipal government in a similar way as columns written by Yankton School District Superintendent Wayne Kindle. The discussion was precipitated by Junior Commissioner Greg Hauer's desire to write some articles about different city departments and what they are doing. It was decided that any commissioner can write opinion pieces when they see fit, that Hauer can proceed with his project and that Nelson will write periodic columns; and

- Was informed that city sales tax revenue for May was 6.4 percent higher than May 2013.

You can follow Nathan Johnson on Twitter at [twitter.com/AnnInland-Voyage](https://twitter.com/AnnInland-Voyage). Discuss this story at [www.yankton.net/](http://www.yankton.net/).

## Milroy

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"When I was elected a year ago as president-elect, that's sort of a two-year commitment," she said. "Once you're president-elect, then the next year you're pretty much president."

Although she never expected to take the position, her experience with the organization prepared her for it.

"Initially, I didn't really plan to be president," she said. "But I guess as I got more involved in a committee and got more in-

terested in some of the issues and got a chance to be a part of the executive committee, it just sort of seemed like a natural progression."

Milroy's term as president will last one year. Some of her duties entail visiting all 12 districts within the SDSMA — including tours of medical facilities and interacting with local healthcare professionals.

She said this is one of the most important parts of the job with the evolution of healthcare.

"We really need to be in tune with what our members are facing," she said. "I think that's particularly true now because there's so much change

in healthcare. There's change in healthcare delivery, there's change in healthcare reimbursement and so I think keeping in touch with what's going on out in the small communities is really essential."

Milroy said addressing the shortage of care providers, increasing residency positions and keeping up access to critical care hospitals are among her top priorities during her tenure as president.

You can follow Rob Nielsen on Twitter at [twitter.com/Rob-NielsenPandJ](https://twitter.com/Rob-NielsenPandJ). Discuss this story at [www.yankton.net/](http://www.yankton.net/)

## Corps

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lawyers wrote. "Downstream flooding will occur even if releases are reduced to minimums from the system dams because enough uncontrolled area exists downstream from several of the dams to cause major flooding if significant rainfall occurs."

The landowners argued that the recurring flooding along the Missouri River has improperly deprived them of their land, so they should be compensated because the government improperly took it.

Eddie Smith, one of the plaintiffs'

lawyers, said he wasn't surprised by the government's initial response. He said the lawsuit is likely to take several years to resolve.

The 2011 flooding lasted more than three months after the Corps began releasing massive amounts of water from reservoirs upstream that were filled by melted snow and heavy rains. The floodwaters overwhelmed levees, carved gouges up to 50 feet deep, created sand dunes 15 feet deep and deposited strange debris on farmers' fields.

Outside experts who reviewed the 2011 flooding said the Corps did the best it could in dealing with record amounts of water that flowed into the 2,341-mile-long river after unusually heavy spring rains in Montana and North Dakota.

## Storm

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ing later this week as more volunteers become available.

"Volunteers of all kinds are needed," he said. "There is a need for people to help in the kitchen, in addition to people with chainsaws, tractors, loaders (and other equipment)."

Individuals can volunteer in one of several ways, Garvin said. The contact information includes:

- Call 2-1-1 or (866) 813-1731.
- Contact Laurel Economic Development at (402) 256-9614.
- Contact the Coleridge Village Office at (402) 283-4464.

More information will be posted and released when another large volunteer event is planned.

The decision was made to take a break from the large-scale clean-up effort, Garvin told the *Press & Dakotan*.

"The organized 'formal' volunteer process is not going on ... in either Laurel or Coleridge," he said. "Most of the volunteers had to return to their normal jobs starting (Monday), so everyone is taking time to regroup."

The clean-up effort is continuing on a smaller scale as pockets of volunteers help family and friends, Garvin said.

Last weekend's clean-up drew a large workforce, Garvin said.

"We had a wonderful

group of volunteers over the weekend," he said. "On Saturday, between the two locations, it was estimated there were (more than) 600 volunteers that we knew about."

That doesn't count the friends and family volunteers we didn't know about."

Volunteers from a large area responded to the call for assistance, Garvin said.

"I can only say good things about how everyone has rallied to provide much-needed help in this time of need," he said. "Everyone came together as a team of sorts and did what needed doing without hesitation."

The recent tornado came almost 11 years to the day after a twister devastated the Coleridge area.

"In comparison to the 2003 tornado, the damage this time appears to be more widespread and appears to be more intense," Garvin said. "Our count on homes damaged beyond repair is increasing as insurance adjusters and contractors start doing structural assessments."

Fortunately, the recent Cedar County tornadoes didn't result in any fatalities, Garvin said. The 2003 twister claimed the life of a Coleridge man.

"The big differences between the two (tornadoes) are obviously, there was no loss of life in this tornado, and the last tornado hit the town very hard, where this one was more rural damage," he said.

A separate Facebook page for the Coleridge tornado noted anyone needing assistance with cleaning up from last week's tornadoes

should call (402) 283-9111.

Anyone finding possessions from the tornadoes is asked to bring the items to the Coleridge Community Building for return to the rightful owners. The request includes photos, collectible items and memorabilia.

Cedar County tornado victims are receiving assistance from the tornado relief effort for Pilger, Neb. An estimated 80 percent of Pilger, an hour south of Coleridge with a population of about 350, was destroyed by June 16 twisters.

The Cedar County tornadoes struck the following night.

"Excess supplies were delivered to Cedar County from the Pilger recovery effort and have fulfilled all the material needs of these communities," the Facebook message said.

"Monetary donations are still needed, however, and those donations may be made to Security Bank in Coleridge and Laurel. Officials wish to thank all of the volunteers and those who have donated material or money toward the Cedar County recovery effort."

Monetary donations for

Laurel Tornado Relief can be made at Security Bank — Laurel, 202 E 2nd Street, Laurel NE 68745 during regular business hours.

Monetary donations for Coleridge Tornado Relief can be made at Security Bank — Coleridge, 101 W Broadway, Coleridge, NE 68727 during regular business hours.

As part of the relief effort, the OutBack Band will host a fundraiser for Cedar County storm victims, according to the Facebook page. The fundraiser will be held Saturday (June 28) at the Bow Valley Ballroom in Bow Valley, Neb.

A variety show will be hosted from 3-5 p.m. followed by a jam session and dance from 5-10 p.m. Bow Valley has donated the ballroom, and the band is donating its time and public address system.

Those wishing to offer assistance can contact Laurie Larsen at [lklarsen\\_72@gpcom.net](mailto:lklarsen_72@gpcom.net).

Financial help of another type is available for area farmers who suffered losses to their herds.

Federal assistance is available to northeast Nebraska producers who lost

livestock in the June tornadoes, according to The Associated Press. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is offering \$100,000 to producers to help them properly dispose of animal carcasses. Producers can apply until July 18.

The USDA can also provide technical assistance in safely disposing of the carcasses.

The assistance is available through the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Producers in Stanton, Wayne, Dixon, Thurston, Cuming and Cedar counties may be eligible.

Other counties may be added if other storms hit before the July 18 deadline.

With clean-up and relief efforts still on-going, more information is also expected surrounding last week's tornadoes themselves.

The NWS said a super cell thunderstorm developed over central Cedar County



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